

Mason Matters!

FALL 2013

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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A Message From Supervisor Gross

Special Interest Articles:

- **Absentee Voting and Bond Information**
- **Sewer Line Repair under Sleepy Hollow Road Scheduled**
- **Fairfax Water to Replace Water Mains in Lake Barcroft**
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Dear Mason District Neighbor:

Autumn weather arrived a little early this year, providing a lovely backdrop to the many civic picnics and block parties that bring neighbors together. Many Mason District neighborhoods are welcoming new families, and celebrating significant birthdays and anniversaries of long-time residents, while at the same time validating that Mason District remains a great place to live, work, play, learn, and worship.

Autumn weather also means falling leaves, and proper disposal of them. For areas of Mason District with county leaf collection, raking leaves to the curb is appropriate when the vacuum trucks come by. If you do not have county leaf collection, please remember that raking leaves and lawn debris into the nearest ditch is not an acceptable disposal method. Yard waste quickly clogs gutters and storm drains, creating road and property flooding. Yard waste should be bagged and set out for your garbage hauler, or composted for use in the garden next spring.

Many constituents have contacted me about a proposed reorganization of the Fairfax County Public Library system. As technology provides more opportunities for accessing information differently, the effect on traditional library services that patrons have come to rely on must be evaluated carefully, and more public outreach is necessary. The Board of Supervisors has asked the Library Board of Trustees to suspend implementation of the reorganization, and cease the wholesale discards of books, which was discovered late this summer. The Library Board of Trustees will present their follow-up report and plan to the Board of Supervisors at our regular Board meeting on November 19.

Housing choice and affordability continue to be subjects of discussion in Fairfax County. A Zoning Ordinance Amendment to allow residential studio units (RSUs) in various residential, commercial, and industrial districts through the Special Exception land use process, was proposed earlier this year. RSUs would be limited to no more than 500 square feet, limited to rental tenants only, and would be located on collector streets or major thoroughfares. Each unit also must have its own kitchen and bathroom (similar to efficiency apartments). The amendment is consistent with the Board of Supervisors' effort to end homelessness, facilitate the 50+ Plan that would accommodate the area's aging single population, and increase affordable housing for a workforce earning less than 60 percent of the average median income. In late September, the Board asked the Planning Commission to establish an Ad Hoc Residential Studios Committee, which will meet with citizens, stakeholders, and others, to address and resolve questions and concerns associated with the RSU amendment. Public hearings about the RSUs, originally scheduled for this fall, have been postponed.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Mason District Supervisor, and I hope you will let me know whenever my staff and I can be of assistance to you. My office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and we are ready to help with any county-related matter.



LOOK FOR **MASON MATTERS!** THE TELEVISION SHOW
on Cable Channel 16
EVERY THURSDAY AT 7 P.M.
EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY AT 6:30 P.M.
DAILY ON THE WEB AT WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MASON

When you set your clocks back one hour on November 3 to return to standard time, don't forget to change the batteries in smoke alarms throughout your home.

Absentee Voting Information for the November 5 Election

Registered voters may vote absentee in person at the satellite location in the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, from **October 15 to November 2**. Voting hours are **Monday through Friday**, from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Voting also is available **Saturdays, October 5, 12, 19, 26, and November 2**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please bring a current and valid form of identification.



The **deadline to apply for an absentee ballot** by mail or fax is **Tuesday, October 29 at 5 p.m.** All mailed absentee ballots **MUST** be received at the Office of Elections by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 5, to be counted.

If you have moved since you last voted, **update your address before October 15**. First-time voters are urged to contact the Fairfax County Office of Elections for instructions. Information is available on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb, or call 703-222-0776; TTY 711. **The deadline to register to vote is October 15 at 4:30 p.m.**

Sewer Line Repair under Sleepy Hollow Road Scheduled

For approximately nine weeks this fall, the Fairfax County Wastewater Collection Division will rehabilitate a sanitary sewer force main of the Holmes Run Pump Station that is located entirely under Sleepy Hollow Road, between Dearborn Drive and Malbrook Drive. The work entails trenchless lining of a cast iron pipe. This project will not cause any sanitary sewer service disruptions. Bypass pumping will be set up and only activated in case of a severe weather event. Notifications are being sent to homeowners adjacent to the project limits, and two-way traffic will be maintained on Sleepy Hollow Road. For more information about this project, contact Tim Reagin of Am-Liner East, Inc., at 571-221-9220, or Russell Russell, Fairfax County Wastewater Collection Division, at 703-250-2003.

School Bond Referendum Included on 2013 Ballot



Bonds are the principal means by which Fairfax County raises funds to address on-going needs in the county without raising taxes. There is one proposed bond referendum on the ballot for the November 5, 2013 election.

The School Bond totals \$250 million for a range of planned improvements to the county's public schools and support facilities. If approved, the money would build two new elementary schools; renovate 17 elementary schools, two middle schools, and three high schools; buy land for the South West County High School; enhance the capacity of one elementary school and one high school; and replace or improve infrastructure, such as roofs, major mechanical systems, and parking lots. For more information about the 2013 Bond Referendum, log-on to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond, or call the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187.

UPC Participates in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County will collect unwanted, unused, and expired medications on **Saturday, October 26, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** In **Mason District**, residents may drop off prescription drugs at the following locations:

Mason District Police Station Front Parking Lot
6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale; and

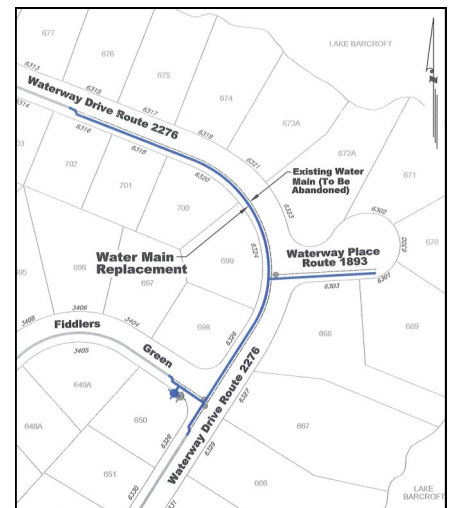
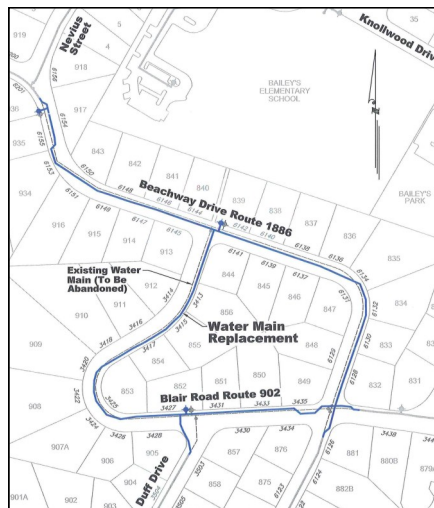
Franconia District Police Station Front Parking Lot
6121 Franconia Road in Alexandria.

Please bring prescription medications in their original containers, and cross out identifying information. Drop off is free and anonymous. For more information, contact the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County by calling 703-938-8723 or visit the Web site at www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

Fairfax Water to Replace Water Mains in Lake Barcroft

This fall, Fairfax Water's contractor, Casper Colosimo and Son, Inc., will be replacing existing water mains near the intersections of Beachway Drive at Blair Road, and Waterway Drive at Waterway Place. Property owners in the affected area will be notified in advance of water service interruptions, lasting short periods of time, during construction. Access to homeowner's driveway will be maintained and the affected roads will be restored, in accordance with the Virginia Department of Transportation's requirements.

Questions or concerns may be directed to Mr. Jerry Scott at 703-289-6351. Fairfax Water's after-hours emergency number is 703-698-5613.



Land Use News



Construction begins this fall at the Woodrow Wilson Library, located at 6101 Knollwood Drive in Bailey's Crossroads. The project will expand and renovate the nearly 50 year-old building to accommodate new technologies and an updated library program. The library renovation will unite two existing structures into one building, and upgrade its operating systems in addition to a façade upgrade. The Woodrow Wilson Library was relocated temporarily to the lobby level of 6066 Leesburg Pike, less than a mile from the construction site. The temporary library will be fully equipped, and will open to the public in late October 2013. Barring any unforeseen delays, the Woodrow Wilson Library is anticipated to reopen in early 2015. For more information about its construction, contact the Fairfax County Building Design and Construction Division at 703-324-5800.



The Seven Corners Land Use and Transportation Task Force has been meeting regularly for one year to evaluate current conditions and prepare recommendations for future land use and development in the Seven Corners area. During its first year's meetings, the task

force hosted presentations by numerous Fairfax County agencies and private companies. In the coming months, the task force will incorporate transportation data into their land use recommendations, and the process is anticipated to result in a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for consideration and adoption by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in Fall 2014.

The Seven Corners Task Force meets at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. Public comment about suggested recommendations is heard every three months, and will be heard next at the task force's November 12 meeting. Information about upcoming activities of the Seven Corners Task Force is available at the Mason District Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason, or call 703-256-7717.



On September 24, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisor recognized the work of the Mason District BRAC 133 Task Force. (L-R) Chairman Sharon Bulova, Rita Zimmerman, Lincolnia Park Civic Assn.; Task Force Chairman Barry Wilson, Palisades HOA; Bill Pike, Charleston Square HOA; Supervisor Penny Gross; and Dorothy Beck, Dowden Terrace (City of Alexandria portion).

Mason District BRAC 133 Task Force Completes its Mission

The Mason District BRAC 133 Task Force, consisting of residents from Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria, was recognized by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for their commitment to work as a joint task force to offer recommendations to address potential adverse effects of commuter traffic and overparking of neighborhood streets anticipated with the U.S. Department of Defense's occupancy of the Mark Center. Formed in November 2010 by Chairman Sharon Bulova and Vice-Chairman Penny Gross, the task force identified potential solutions that were realistic and achievable. Information about the task force is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason.

Coming Attractions

- The Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss Street in Alexandria, will host its popular **Flea Market** on Saturday, October 19, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy great bargains featuring jewelry, craft items, and more, while supporting a wonderful community resource. For more information, contact Karen Albers at 703-914-0223, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, or by e-mail at Karen.Albers@fairfaxcounty.gov.
- The Virginia Chamber Orchestra and their new music director, David Grandis, present "**Romantic Era with a French Twist**" on Sunday, October 20, 4 p.m. at the Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. The concert features music by Schubert, Wagner, and Poulenc. Free parking available and complimentary reception will follow. For more information, call 703-758-0179 or visit www.virginiachamberorchestra.org.
- The **Annandale Fall Festival Parade** will be held on Saturday, October 26, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information, or to participate, contact the Annandale Chamber of Commerce at 703-256-7232. The **Annandale Fall Festival** and the **Taste of Annandale** will be held in the Safeway parking lot, 7414 Little River Turnpike, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Listen to jazz, pop, and country music and enjoy international cuisine. The **Kids Zone** will feature activities for toddlers and teens. For more information, visit www.annandalechamber.com.
- Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria, will host a **Gardener's Holiday Open House** on Sunday, December 8, 12 - 4 p.m. Enjoy seasonal music and refreshments, and complete your holiday shopping with gifts and plants for your favorite gardener. For more information, call 703-642-5173, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Community Notes

- Fairfax County's Fire and Rescue Department invite you to their Prevention Week Open House on **Saturday, October 12**, 10 a.m.– 4 p.m. The theme this year is "Prevent Kitchen Fires." Fire Stations throughout Mason District invite you to participate in activities and learn about fire safety. For more information, call 703-246-3801, or log-on to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire.
- AARP volunteers will return in **2014** to provide free tax help to residents from **February 1 until April 15** at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Walk-in service will be available on Mondays and Thursdays: 1- 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; and Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. All returns are filed electronically. For more information and to volunteer, visit www.aarp.org/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669.
- The ACCA (Annandale Christian Community for Action) is a volunteer organization serving neighbors in dire need of furniture. Please call 703-256-9513 and ACCA will pick up your donated furniture and give you a tax deductible receipt. The most needed items are mattresses/box springs (single, double, or queen size) sofas (not sleeper types), kitchen/dining room tables, and chairs, chests of drawers/dressers, coffee tables, end tables, and microwaves.
- The Fall 2013 Culmore Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, November 9**, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Because of the renovation of the Woodrow Wilson Library, volunteers will meet at the Shirley McMannis Room, 6017 Argyle Drive in Falls Church, not far from the library. For more information and to volunteer, visit www.facebook.com/culmorecleanupday, or send an e-mail to mason@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Mason District's Holiday Town Gathering

Wednesday, December 4 at 7 p.m.

Mason District Governmental Center
6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale

Start the holiday season with your neighbors and friends at the Mason District's Holiday Town Gathering. Enjoy a feature performance by local musicians, tasty refreshments, and possibly win a door prize!

SUPERVISOR PENELOPE A. "PENNY" GROSS
MASON DISTRICT GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
6507 COLUMBIA PIKE
ANNANDALE, VA 22003

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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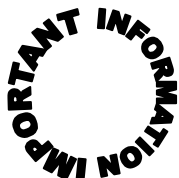
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